



October 2006 Newsletter



Meetings of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance meets monthly via ICN and meets in person quarterly in rotating locations. Meetings are open to anyone interested in afterschool issues.

The next meeting will be:

Tuesday, November 14th, 9:30-11:30am

Butler Elementary, 945 S. 18th, Fort Dodge

Please mark your calendar for the following ICN meetings:

December 19th, 9:30-11:00am

January 10th, 9:00am-12:00pm (longer meeting to include advocacy training)

To request ICN sites and/or to RSVP for meetings, please contact Rachel Lynch at rlynch@sppg.com.

United Way Advocacy Grant

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance is pleased to announce that we are one of six recipients of an Advocacy Grant from the United Way of Central Iowa! This grant will allow the IAA to train afterschool advocates in Fort Dodge and Cedar Rapids in specific strategies to work with legislators on a comprehensive policy agenda to support afterschool. No dates have been selected yet. We will work with advocates and providers in those communities to plan training events. If you would like to be involved in events in Cedar Rapids or Fort Dodge, please email rscott@sppg.com.

The IAA is also working with organizations like the Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs and individual programs to finalize a comprehensive, statewide policy agenda for afterschool, primarily focusing on funding programs. If you would like to join the Policy Work Group, please contact Kevin Koester at kkoester@ankeny.k12.ia.us. Our work will include an Afterschool Day on the Hill (date to be determined).

Afterschool "Blueprint" Meetings

Council Bluffs is pleased to host Iowa's first community forum that will help to identify a statewide vision for afterschool from 6:30-8:00pm on October 26th. This vision will be developed as Iowa's Blueprint for Afterschool, a comprehensive set of recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly set to be released at the end of next year.

The Community Education Foundation and Kids and Company are hosting the event, and the Iowa Afterschool Alliance will facilitate discussion to gather community input. This is a prime opportunity for programs in western Iowa to bring stakeholders to discuss needs in afterschool and consider strategies to meet them.

Thursday, October 26, 6:30-8:00pm

Senior Center, 714 South Main, Council Bluffs

Please RSVP to Jennifer at 712-322-8890 or cbalumni@cef.svcoxml.com

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies. For more information, please contact Rachel Scott at rscott@sppg.com or 515-243-2000.

A second meeting will be held in Iowa City with a focus on prevention. Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County is hosting the event.

Thursday, November 9, 6:30-8:00pm

Grant Wood Elementary School lunchroom
1930 Lakeside Drive, Iowa City
Please RSVP to Andrew at 319-358-0438 or andrew-coghill@ncjc.org

Iowa-Specific Data in *Uncertain Times* Survey

Many programs participated in a national survey of afterschool programs earlier this fall about program capacity and future funding. Iowa is one of fourteen states whose respondent size allows generalizability of data. To read the national and state findings as well as an Iowa-specific press release, go to:

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/Uncertain_Times.cfm

It's important to point out that Iowa's data is somewhat of a national anomaly in that programs tended to report that their future funding was relatively secure. This can be explained by the fact that over 60% of Iowa's programs are funded by parent fees, where other states are more likely to depend on diverse sources of public and private funding. For more information on interpreting the data, please see the press release.

Out-of-School Time Arts Study

Last session, HF 2797 appropriated funds and provided guidelines for a study of arts education and enrichment programming for school age children outside of school settings. Please take 15 minutes today to complete and submit the survey. The results will be shared with the Governor and General Assembly in the context of sharing Iowa's current successes and identifying gaps in resources. The survey will be available until 4:30 pm on November 3rd.

Who should take the survey? You should take the survey if you offer before- or afterschool or summer programs for youth which include at least some instruction in the arts, or if you are an arts-based program. A program need not be only arts-based to take the survey. Questions are designed to gather information from both arts-based and non arts-based programs as well as those that are school-based. Program directors or staff with access to program information (such as basic budget information, student attendance, etc.) should take the survey.

What if I work with multiple programs? If you work with multiple programs offered by the same agency, please answer the survey about your programs as best you can taken as a whole. If the programs are offered by different agencies, it would be most helpful to have the survey completed from the perspective of those individual agencies. You may take the survey more than once from the perspective of different programs if you wish.

To begin the survey, go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=180592645599>

Additionally, the Iowa Arts Council would like to identify Model Out-of-School Arts Programs. We invite you to nominate your program using the attached application (both PDF and Word versions are available). Survey results and selected Model Programs will be highlighted on the Iowa Arts Council website and included in the Report to the Governor. Nominations are due November 17th.

***Lights on Afterschool!* Celebrations a Hit**

October 12th was *Lights On Afterschool!*, a national day of advocacy and awareness for afterschool programs. Iowa had 37 sites registered as celebrants with the national Afterschool Alliance. Iowa's afterschool programs brought together thousands of people to learn about the value of afterschool and what communities can do to support these enriching opportunities for kids.

In last month's newsletter, we asked programs to have children color the Lights On! light bulb pages and send them to us at IAA. It's not too late! If you have colored bulbs or would still like to have youth participate, we are still collecting bulbs to display in connection with our Day on the Hill. Please send to:

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